General Assembly

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Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 126

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/57/656/Add.1)*]

57/318. Support account for peacekeeping operations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/258 of 3 May 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 48/226 A of 23 December 1993, 56/241 of 24 December 2001 and 56/293 of 27 June 2002, its decisions 48/489 of 8 July 1994, 49/469 of 23 December 1994 and 50/473 of 23 December 1995 and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: budget performance for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 and budget for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004",[1] his report on the financial performance of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002,[2] his report on the budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004,[3] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[4]

Having also considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the experience with resident investigators[5] and on gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping activities,[6] as well as the above-mentioned reports of the Advisory Committee, specifically paragraphs 86 to 95 of the first report[7] with regard to resident investigators and auditors, and paragraph 31 of the second report[8] with regard to gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping activities,

Recognizing the importance of the United Nations being able to respond and deploy rapidly a peacekeeping operation upon adoption of a relevant resolution of the Security Council, within thirty days for traditional peacekeeping operations and ninety days for complex peacekeeping operations,

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[1] A/57/723.
[2] A/57/725.
[3] A/57/732.
[4] A/57/772 and A/57/776.
[5] A/57/494.
[6] A/57/731.
[7] A/57/772.
[8] A/57/776.

Recognizing also the need for adequate support during all phases of peacekeeping operations, including the liquidation and termination phases,

Mindful that the level of the support account should broadly correspond to the mandates, number, size and complexity of peacekeeping missions,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the support account for peacekeeping operations;[9]

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the experience with resident investigators;[5]

3. *Further takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping activities;[6]

4. *Reaffirms* the need for effective and efficient administration and financial management of peacekeeping operations, and urges the Secretary-General to continue to identify measures to increase the productivity and efficiency of the support account;

5. *Affirms* the need for adequate funding for the backstopping of peacekeeping operations, as well as the need for full justification for that funding in support account budget submissions;

6. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the relevant paragraphs of the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[10] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

7. *Decides* to maintain, for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004, the funding mechanism for the support account used in the current period, from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003, as approved in paragraph 3 of its resolution 50/221 B of 7 June 1996;

8. *Reaffirms* the need for the Secretary-General to ensure that delegation of authority to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat and field missions is in strict compliance with relevant resolutions and decisions and the relevant rules and procedures of the General Assembly on this matter;

9. *Also reaffirms* that any delegation of authority to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and field missions requires full accountability of programme managers;

10. *Further reaffirms* paragraph 15 of its resolution 56/293, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-eighth session a comprehensive report on measures taken in this regard and the criteria used for recruitment to all support account posts, in particular those in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, bearing in mind that the system of desirable ranges does not currently apply to support account posts;

11. *Regrets* that the D-2 post for the administration of change management is still vacant, and urges the Secretary-General to fill it as soon as possible;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review the level of the support account on a regular basis, taking into consideration the number, size and complexity of peacekeeping operations;

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[9] A/57/725 and A/57/732.

[10] A/57/772, paras. 86–95, and A/57/776, paras. 30 and 31.

13. *Requests* the Board of Auditors to carry out a review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations[11] as approved by the General Assembly, to gauge the effects of management reform measures taken since the approval of the report and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

14. *Decides* to review at its resumed fifty-eighth session the existing posts approved in its resolutions 55/238 of 23 December 2000, 56/241 and 56/293 and in the present resolution in order to consider their justification, taking into account the ongoing evaluation by the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat of the impact of the recent restructuring of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on its performance in the backstopping of peacekeeping operations;

15. *Approves* the establishment of eight posts (2 P-4, 4 P-3 and 2 General Service) for the Investigations Division of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, to be divided evenly between the regional hubs in Vienna and Nairobi, and decides to review these posts and functions in the next support account budget, taking into account the relevant workload and coverage of their activities;

16. *Also approves* the establishment of a P-3 post and general temporary assistance for one General Service post (Other level) in the Executive Office of the Office of Internal Oversight Services;

17. *Further approves* the transfer from peacekeeping operations budgets to the support account budget of 27 resident auditor and assistant posts at the same level as in the budget for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003,[12] to be deployed as necessary, bearing in mind that whenever a mission's mandate is adjusted or terminated, the number of audit posts should be adjusted or terminated accordingly;

18. *Decides* that any support account posts that remain vacant and any new posts that are not filled for twelve months from the date of their establishment would require rejustification in the subsequent budget submission, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of this decision;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in the next support account report details of reclassification upward and reclassification downward, if any, of posts, as well as the breakdown of appointments to posts reclassified upward in the previous two years, as between internal and external candidates, and to provide annual data thereafter;

20. *Decides* that the person recruited to the gender adviser post shall be responsible for all operational support activities and all related activities pertaining to the implementation of individual mandates of various peacekeeping operations in the area of gender mainstreaming, including those activities relating to the field operations of each peacekeeping mission;

21. *Affirms* that the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women is the competent authority for gender mainstreaming in the United Nations as a whole and is responsible for the formulation of policy as mandated by the intergovernmental bodies, and in this regard requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to establish a viable, effective mechanism for close coordination with the

[11] See A/55/977.

[12] See A/57/723, table 1.

Special Adviser, ensuring that all plans of action on gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping operations are consistent with the existing mandates;

22. *Stresses* that the creation of a gender adviser in the Best Practices Unit of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations does not constitute a precedent to be followed by other departments and should not itself lead to the establishment of a gender unit in the Department, and also stresses the importance of not duplicating functions and capacities that already exist elsewhere in the Secretariat;

23. *Decides* to review the establishment and the level of the post of gender adviser in the context of paragraph 14 above;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General, through the Office of Internal Oversight Services, to report to the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-eighth session on the cases processed by the regional investigators;

25. *Decides* to establish, on a trial basis, a P-4 post in the Monitoring, Evaluation and Consulting Division of the Office of Internal Oversight Services to undertake oversight functions with regard to military aspects of peacekeeping operations, and also not to approve the amount covering six months of consultancy services for three experts mentioned in paragraph 70 of the report of the Advisory Committee;[8]

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation and impact of this decision in the context of his support account budget proposal for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006;

27. *Concurs* with the observation of the Advisory Committee in paragraph 51 of its report[8] that the term "inspectorate" or "inspector-general" does not appropriately reflect the intended use of the consultancy funds requested in paragraph 43 of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the support account for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004[3] and should not be used;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the relationship between the proposals requested in paragraphs 43 and 62 of his report,[3] and decides to review this issue in the context of the consideration of the proposed budget for the support account for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006;

29. *Decides* not to approve the resources requested in paragraph 115 of the report of the Secretary-General,[3] and requests the Secretary-General to present a full justification for the establishment of those posts in the context of his next budget submission for the support account for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005;

30. *Approves* the Military Division training budget at the level requested by the Secretary-General;[13]

31. *Regrets* that the Secretary-General has not included in his report an annex containing information on the status of implementation of relevant adopted recommendations made by the Advisory Committee and other oversight bodies, as requested in paragraph 17 of its resolution 56/293;

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002

32. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002;[2]

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[13] A/57/732, sect. II.A.4 and paras. 40–46.

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004

33. *Approves* the support account requirements in the amount of 112,075,800 United States dollars for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004, including 702 continuing and 41 new temporary posts and their related post and non-post requirements;

Financing of requirements for the support account for peacekeeping operations

34. *Decides* that requirements for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 shall be financed as follows:

(*a*) The unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 8,532,250 dollars in respect of the period ended 30 June 2002 to be applied to the resources required for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004;

(*b*) The increase of 517,100 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002 to be added to the credits from the amount referred to in subparagraph (*a*) above;

(*c*) The amount of 33,250,000 dollars in excess of the authorized level of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund in respect of the period ended 30 June 2002 to be applied to the resources required for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004;

(*d*) The balance of 70,293,550 dollars to be prorated among the budgets of the active peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004;

(*e*) The estimated staff assessment income of 15,320,200 dollars for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 to be set off against the balance referred to in subparagraph (*d*) above, to be prorated among the individual active peacekeeping operations budgets.

90th plenary meeting
18 June 2003